

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

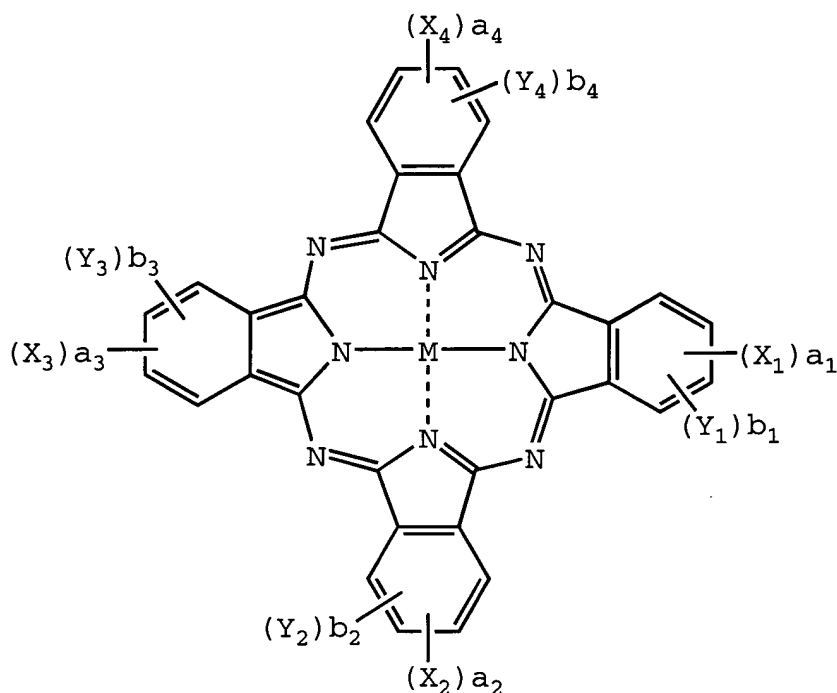
**This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:**

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1. (currently amended): An inkjet recording ink comprising an aqueous medium having dissolved ~~or dispersed~~ therein a dye represented by the following formula (I), which is water-soluble and contains a lithium ion as a counter ion,

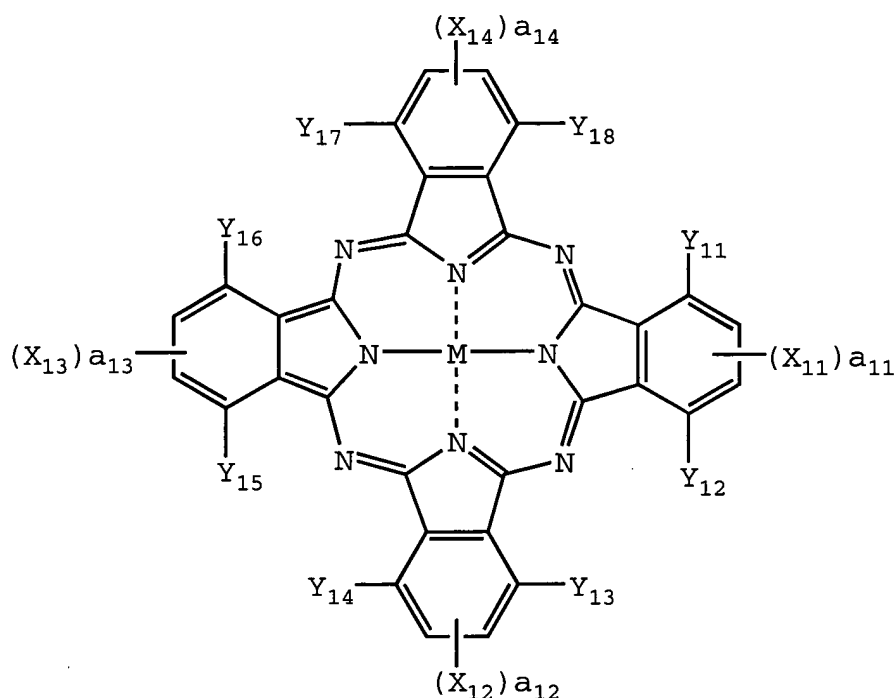
wherein the total amount of a cation in said ink except for a lithium ion, a hydrogen ion, an ammonium ion, an organic quaternary nitrogen ion and an ion produced by the proton addition to a nitrogen atom in a basic organic material is 0.5 wt% or less:

Formula (I)



wherein  $X_1$ ,  $X_2$ ,  $X_3$  and  $X_4$  each independently represents  $-\text{SO}-\text{Z}$ ,  $-\text{SO}_2-\text{Z}$ ,  $-\text{SO}_2\text{NR}_1\text{R}_2$ , a sulfo group,  $-\text{CONR}_1\text{R}_2$  or  $-\text{CO}_2\text{R}_1$ ;  $\text{Z}$  represents a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted cycloalkyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted alkenyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted aralkyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted aryl group or a substituted or unsubstituted heterocyclic group;  $\text{R}_1$  and  $\text{R}_2$  each independently represents a hydrogen atom, a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted cycloalkyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted alkenyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted aralkyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted aryl group or a substituted or unsubstituted heterocyclic group, and when a plurality of  $\text{Zs}$  are present, the  $\text{Zs}$  may be the same or different;  $\text{Y}_1$ ,  $\text{Y}_2$ ,  $\text{Y}_3$  and  $\text{Y}_4$  each independently represents a monovalent substituent, and when a plurality of  $\text{X}_1\text{s}$ ,  $\text{X}_2\text{s}$ ,  $\text{X}_3\text{s}$ ,  $\text{X}_4\text{s}$ ,  $\text{Y}_1\text{s}$ ,  $\text{Y}_2\text{s}$ ,  $\text{Y}_3\text{s}$  or  $\text{Y}_4\text{s}$  are present, the  $\text{X}_1\text{s}$ ,  $\text{X}_2\text{s}$ ,  $\text{X}_3\text{s}$ ,  $\text{X}_4\text{s}$ ,  $\text{Y}_1\text{s}$ ,  $\text{Y}_2\text{s}$ ,  $\text{Y}_3\text{s}$  or  $\text{Y}_4\text{s}$  may be the same or different;  $a_1$  to  $a_4$  and  $b_1$  to  $b_4$  represent the number of substituents  $\text{X}_1$  to  $\text{X}_4$  and  $\text{Y}_1$  to  $\text{Y}_4$ , respectively;  $a_1$  to  $a_4$  each independently represents an integer of 0 to 4 but all of  $a_1$  to  $a_4$  are not 0 at the same time;  $b_1$  to  $b_4$  each independently represents an integer of 0 to 4;  $\text{M}$  represents a hydrogen atom, a metal atom, or an oxide, hydroxide or halide thereof.

2. (original): The inkjet recording ink as described in claim 1, wherein the dye represented by formula (I) is a dye represented by the following formula (II):



wherein  $X_{11}$  to  $X_{14}$ ,  $Y_{11}$  to  $Y_{18}$  and  $M$  have the same meanings as  $X_1$  to  $X_4$ ,  $Y_1$  to  $Y_4$  and  $M$  in the formula (I), respectively, and  $a_{11}$  to  $a_{14}$  each independently represents an integer of 1 or 2.

3. (currently amended): The inkjet recording ink as described in claim 1, which further comprises ~~at least one of a lithium ion and a hydrogen ion~~.
4. (original): The inkjet recording ink as described in claim 1, wherein the cation in said ink except for a lithium ion, a hydrogen ion, an ammonium ion, an organic quaternary nitrogen ion and an ion produced by the proton addition to a nitrogen atom in a basic organic material is at least one selected from the group consisting of a potassium ion, a sodium ion, a cesium ion, a magnesium ion, a zinc ion, a calcium ion, a strontium ion, an aluminum ion and a transition metal ion.

5. (original): The inkjet recording ink as described in claim 1, wherein the cation in said ink except for a lithium ion, a hydrogen ion, an ammonium ion, an organic quaternary nitrogen ion and an ion produced by the proton addition to a nitrogen atom in a basic organic material is at least one of a potassium ion and a sodium ion.

6. (new): The inkjet recording ink described in claim 1, wherein the dye has an ionic hydrophilic group.

7. (new): The inkjet recording ink described in claim 1, wherein the dye has at least two hydrophilic groups within one molecule.

8. (new): The inkjet recording ink described in claim 1, wherein the dye has an ionic hydrophilic group selected from the group consisting of a carboxyl group, a phosphono group and a sulfo group.